

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Device for cooling and/or rinsing at least one steel wire and/or ribbon, comprising

- means (23, 24) of driving in movement at least one steel wire or ribbon (3),

characterised in that this device also comprises

- a vessel (1) containing a cooling and/or rinsing liquid and provided with outlets from which a certain number of successive curtains of liquid (17), through which the said at least one steel wire and/or ribbon passes, flow turbulently, and

- means (22) of adjusting the number of successive curtains to be passed through by the said at least one wire and/or ribbon according to the cooling and/or rinsing to be obtained.

2. (Original) Device according to Claim 1, characterised in that the tank (1) is arranged below the said at least one moving wire and/or ribbon (3) and in that the device also comprises

- means (7-9, 13, 16) of spraying the above-mentioned curtains of liquid from the tank in a rising turbulent flow.

3. (Original) Device according to Claim 2, characterised in that the means of spraying curtains of liquid are arranged so that there is, towards at least one side of each curtain after its rising, a fall of liquid (18, 19) which passes through the said at least one moving steel wire and/or ribbon.

4. (Original) Device according to Claim 3, characterised in that the means of spraying liquid curtains are arranged with respect to each other so that the falls coming from at least two adjoining curtains intersect.

5. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of Claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, characterised in that it also comprises, above the said at least one moving wire and/or ribbon, deflecting means (20, 21) which divert the rising turbulent flow of the above-mentioned curtains of liquid towards at least one side of each curtain so as to form from there at least one fall of turbulent-flow liquid through which the said at least one steel wire and/or ribbon moves.

6. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or other of Claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterised in that the above-mentioned spray means comprise means of supplying pressurised gas bubbles (7-9, 13, 14) in a bottom part of the tank (1) and means for the forced guidance (15, 16), towards the said outlets, of the bubbles which entrain the liquid upwards in the form of rising turbulent-flow curtains of liquid.

7. (Original) Device according to Claim 6, characterised in that the force guidance means consist of two plates (15, 16) supported on each side in the tank (1) so as to form between them, at a top end situated above the level of the cooling and/or rinsing liquid, a first uniform narrow separation disposed perpendicular to the said at least one wire and/or ribbon to be treated, and, at a second bottom end situated towards the bottom of the tank, a second separation greater than the

first, the means (7-9, 13, 14) of supplying gas bubbles bringing these between the two plates (15, 16) towards the said bottom end of these.

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or other of Claims 6 and 7~~ claim 6, characterised in that each means of spraying a cooling and/or rinsing liquid curtain comprises its own means (7-9) of supplying gas bubbles and in that it comprises, as an adjustment means, means (22) for opening or closing as required the means of supplying gas bubbles of each spraying means.